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28 Oct.-10 Nov. 1952

OCTOBER REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY..... 1
INDUSTRY..... 2
AGRICULTURE..... 4
MISCELLANEOUS..... 5

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- 1 -

October Revolution Anniversary:

The usual great publicity accorded to Pervukhin's speech (6 November) and the October Revolution anniversary in general as well as the continuing sizable output on the 19th All-Union Party Congress have left little room for other topics in the period under review. The traditional playing down of economic shortcomings and stressing industrial and agricultural achievements during the period immediately preceding and following the Revolution celebrations appears to be fully observed this time too. Pervukhin's own references to failings on the domestic front are few and unspecific. His allusion to unsatisfactory industrial production is more in the nature of a warning to the management than an admission of failings. Industrial executives, he says, "would do well to bear in mind" that they are not irreplaceable. Continued non-fulfillment of the State plans and production of low-quality goods will be remedied by a change in the management, if necessary. No such threats are uttered in the case of agriculture which, in the speaker's words, is working at peak production having solved "the acute and serious grain problem...definitely and finally." House-building in the country is declared to have been a howling success in 1951 and the first 10 months of 1952. A total living space of 43 million square meters, or "the equivalent of over 1 million two-room apartments", has been built in addition to the 620,000 houses in the rural areas. Industrial construction, however, has not been able to accelerate its slow pace. Chief among the "serious shortcomings" in that branch of industry is the "failure to complete new projects" in the time laid down, and reduce the cost of production which has always been inordinately high.

Characteristic of most of the available Anniversary speeches is the specific reference to the "capitalist aggression" theme and the Soviet defiance of any untoward gesture on the part of the "warmongers." In Pervukhin's and the other Anniversary reviews the "obvious" designs of the Soviet Union on the part of the Western world are familiarly juxtaposed with the "enormous strength" of the "peace and democracy" camp headed by the Soviet Union, and the Soviet people's determination to rebuff (dat otpor) any and all aggressors. Marshal Timoshenko, for example, stresses the "strength" point by saying that the Soviet armed forces have "everything necessary" at their disposal to rout a reckless aggressor, that is the "American aggressor." Pervukhin is more outspoken on the subject by using an appropriate quotation from Maxim Gorki who said that another attempt on the USSR will spell the doom of capitalism: Should the Western world embark on another insane adventure by dispatching their "hordes" against the Soviet Union,

they must be met...with such a rebuff which would be the last blow to be struck at the blockhead of capital, a blow mighty enough to hurl it into the grave so expediently prepared for it by history.

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Russian version:

neobkhodimo, chtoby ikh vstretil takoy udar po glupym golovam, kotoryy prevratilsya by v posledniy udar po bashke kapitala i sbrosil ego v mogilu, vpolne svoevremennno vyrytuyu dlya nego istoriy.

The accent on American "aggressive intentions and action" was loud also in the principal anniversary speeches made in the Ukraine and Moldavian SSR. Speaking in Kishinev on 7 November, an unnamed general told his audience that the Soviet bloc is now stronger than the coalition of aggressors, and that fact should serve as a deterrent to their ambitions. However, should "the American imperialist unleash a new world war", there is no doubt that capitalism will be finished "once and for all" (raz i navsegda). Nazarenko asserts (7 November) that the threat of foreign aggression is real because the "Anglo-American warmongers are forgetting that there is a force they cannot conquer." Gen. Grechko tells the Ukrainians that the Soviet people are mindful of America's aspiration of starting a new world war but that the Soviet armed forces are "always in a state of military preparedness" and able to deal with any aggressor.

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- 2 -

Industry:

Discussion of production and other industrial failings is limited and for the most part confined to the pre-Anniversary period. A VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA editorial says (28 October) that the country needs increasing quantities of lumber but is not getting them because a number of logging camps are not doing anything toward the "fulfilment of the state plans for autumn and winter deliveries." The paper reveals also that "last winter, this summer and even now" a large number of machines have been idle for various reasons (po raznym prichinam), and the result is a substantial drop in production. A broadcast from Simferopol on 28 October said that the Crimean fishermen are "still indebted to the State" (vse eshche v dolgu pered gosudarstvom) which is another way of saying that they are lagging behind the plan. Such a situation would not have arisen had the fishing industry shown greater enthusiasm for the introduction of "progressive norms" of work and new technical facilities. These innovations, says the paper, should be copied from the leading fishing enterprises and "propagated on a large scale". It appears, however, that most of the fishing industry officials are "extremely slow" in adopting the progressive methods of production which, as discussed in previous CPW reports, simply means the establishment of higher production norms. The latter, based on average stakhanovite unit performance, are subsequently declared to be the "minimum quota" for a given enterprise while the stakhanovites are required to surpass the new goals if they are to retain their titles. The paper points out also that the reluctance of the management to step up production is frequently paralleled by the incompetence of the technical staff who "lack the minimum technical knowledge" to do the job.

ZARYA VOSTOKA (29 October) says that the peculiar attitude of the management toward the introduction of well-tested new production methods applies also to the engineering industry. A number of enterprises in Georgian SSR, says the paper, are unable to cope with their production plans because of their unwillingness to switch to the progressive method of production. The editorial sees selfishness and other mercenary motives as the root of all industrial failings--incompetence is often forgivable but a dishonest attitude (nedobrosovestnoye otnoshenie) to the work carries far graver implications:

There are economic leaders who put their personal interests above those of the State. Such anti-government practice is detrimental to the State, and people who cheat the State will not be tolerated.

BRYANSKY RABOCHY discloses (2 November) that some of the basic industries of Bryansk oblast -- the locomotive works, steel works and the pre-fab house-building combine -- are "unable to cope" (ne mogut spravitsya) with the State plan. Asserting that these are merely the largest but not the only lagging enterprises, the editorial presents a long list of plants which are said to have failed in their deliveries of essential materials. These industries are slow, says the paper, because they show no "evidence of innovation" and no improvement in their engineering. This point, however, is not amplified.

MOLOT speaks (4 November) of the shocking "mismanagement" (beskhozaistvennost) recently revealed at a number of unnamed industrial enterprises but names only two of them as examples. The coal produced at the Mezhdannaya mine is very costly to the State, it is claimed. This year alone, the overexpenditures (pereraskhody) incurred by that mine amounted to 1,934 million rubles, and this at a time when the current plan calls for a further reduction of production costs. The Budenny electric locomotive works "is not even conscious of the economy regime", and its production costs are said to be steadily mounting. The plant, says the editorial, is suffering great losses from waste, inflated salary funds and a variety of overhead expenses but neither the management nor the Party organization appears to be unduly concerned about it. There is no short-coming that better technology and higher labor efficiency will not remedy, the paper concludes, and urges the trade unions to intensify their drive among the workers for a

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- 3 -

larger output and a greater interest in the work. Higher labor productivity is also the object of NADNEPRIANSKA PRAVDA's editorial discussion (5 November). Our successes, it suggests, should not blind us to the shortcomings concealed behind them. The so-called average indices are still used as a cloak to cover a multitude of sins:

It is impossible to forget that behind the average figures, behind the leading enterprises which are over-fulfilling their plans, are enterprises...and rayons which do not fulfill the plans...their machines are badly utilized and socialist competition is weakly developed.

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The Dnieper Construction Trust (Dniprobud) is cited as merely one of the largest organizations which manage to show good average figures and poor performance at the same time. With a view to reducing production costs, the management issued a directive some time ago to introduce the cost accounting system but as of today, the paper complains, the directive still remains on paper because "no one has ever bothered" to check its implementation.

The practice of average figure "juggling" (podtasovka) was castigated in a previous broadcast from Kiev (1 November) which warned industrial officials against "basing their opinion on average figures" and claiming great successes. It pointed out that the Stalin Coal Trust which "on the whole" operated according to schedule contains a number of mines which are continually lagging behind. MOLOT reminds its readers (2 November) that socialist competition among plants, departments and even individual workers is still looked upon as a cure-all for every production ailment and an integral part of industrial operations. Some officials, the paper admits, have not yet learned that simple truth, as is the case in the Nesvetay Anthracite Coal Trust where they are "defying the idea" of socialist competition. The same is said to apply to the North Caucasus Railroad where the lack of competition for higher "weight ratios" has deprived the State of over five million rubles in savings. PRAVDA declares (10 November) that the struggle for higher quality production is far from over since many enterprises "still work unevenly" and "permit the anti-State practice of producing second-rate goods in excess of the plan..." The output of inferior goods even in excess of plan is a violation of State discipline because the Plan calls for a certain standard of quality which is not to be reduced under any circumstances. Besides, the large amount of potential rejects invariably reduces the planned quantity of production.

A Gladkov PRAVDA article broadcast on 10 November reiterates the "basic economic law of socialism" (osnovnoy ekonomicheskoy zakon sotsializma) as outlined by Stalin. Although the ultimate aim of socialism is admittedly the "satisfaction of the consumer's growing requirements", it is not the consumer but the heavy industry that is to be given concentrated attention. Whether or not Stalin's dictum is to be used as an "explanation" for the known disproportion between the expanding heavy industry and lagging consumer production is, of course, not clear. It will be recalled in this connection, however, that in his recent BOLSHEVIK article on socialist economic problems Stalin belabored economist Yaroshenko for maintaining that under socialism the consumer will be the immediate beneficiary of industrial expansion:

...the most important condition for the constant growth of public production is the rapid growth of the production of the means of production in comparison with the production of consumer goods.

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Russian version:

...vazhneishim uslovie dlya postoyannogo rosta obshchestvennogo proizvodstva yavlyatsya bystryy rost proizvodstva sredstv proizvodstva po sravneniu s proizvodstvom sredstv potrebleniya.

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- 4 -

Agriculture:

Broadcasts on collective farm activities are diffuse in character and ranging from tractor repairs to the planting and maintenance of forest belts. KIEVSKAYA PRAVDA (28 October) reveals that an unstated number of machine-tractor stations in Kiev oblast were unable to use much of their equipment last year because of a breakdown in the tractor-repair system. The paper does not elaborate the point but hints at evidence of a repetition of last year's performance. A number of machine-tractor stations, it points out, "have lagged from the start" and are still unable to speed up the repair of tractors and other machinery. Agricultural and Party officials are therefore called upon to eliminate shortcomings as soon as they are discovered: later it will be too late. A broadcast from Velikie Luki of 2 November quotes VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA as criticizing the "intolerable performance" of the tractor-repair workers. Last minute adjustments and repairs have never produced much except large-scale breakdowns of machinery, it is claimed. It would be far better if the technical failures could be prevented or reduced by more skillful use of the machines but once they break down, the paper says, they should be repaired at once.

KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA asserts (28 October) that protective forest-planting in the Crimea has been relegated to a place of secondary importance, particularly in Pervomaisky and Krasnoperekopskiy rayons where large numbers of young trees have already perished through inadequate care. Referring to the same theme on 29 October, MOLOT describes the forest-planting progress in Rostov oblast in almost identical terms:

In many kolkhozes carelessness has been noted, and the ruination of forest belts has been the result...the kolkhozes of Konstantinovskiy rayon have lost about 70% of their young trees...in some kolkhozes young seedlings have been ruined by cattle.

KURSKAYA PRAVDA reports (28 October) that the situation in sugar beet harvesting "is causing great alarm" (vyzyvayet bolshuyu trevogu). Judging by the way the harvest is gathered, the editorial says, it is impossible to see how losses can be prevented. The local Party and agricultural officials are urged to use the "whole able-bodied village population" (vse trudosposobnoye naselenie derevni) to bring in the sugar beets before they begin to rot on the fields, as was the case with previous harvests. Socialist competition among the farmers will help the job, but better labor organization is suggested as one of the first prerequisites.

A STALINSKIY PUT editorial (29 October) is censorious about the way the grain harvest is being handled. In a number of places, it says, the establishment of seed funds has been neglected, and that lessens the chances for a bumper crop next year. This is particularly evident in Zatobolskiy, Ozerenskiy, Mendygerinskiy, Fedorovskiy, Uritskiy, Ubaganskiy and a number of other rayons. Such negligence is not to be wondered at, says the paper, since "many tons of grain" not yet cleaned remain unprotected near threshing floors. In Fedorovskiy rayon the grain is still on the fields where "it has been left to its own fate" (ostavleno na proizvol sudby). Similar "ugly pictures" may be observed elsewhere where plundering is no less responsible for the grain losses than spoilage. Some agricultural officials claim to be too hard pressed by such current problems as plowing and livestock maintenance to devote sufficient time and energy to grain removals. This, says the paper, is patent nonsense particularly if one bears in mind that the Party Committees are just as responsible for agricultural production as they are. The proper care of grain is said to be "everybody's responsibility", including the machine-tractor stations and the rayon Executive Committees who in this case must share the guilt with those "directly" (neposredstvenno) in charge of field operations.

A broadcast from Tbilisi (1 November) says that the Central Committee of the Georgian

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- 5 -

Communist Party has directed the Republic's Ministry of Agriculture "to eliminate the serious shortcomings" in winter grain sowing without delay. There is no reference in the report to the nature of the mentioned shortcomings, but the quoted Party directive speaks of the observable tendency

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to repeat the mistakes of last year when winter grain sowing was extended into late fall and a subsequent lowering of the harvest yield ensued.

KRASNIY KURGAN (4 November) inveighs against the indifferent attitude of the oblast's agricultural administration toward the change-over to the crop-rotation method of agriculture. Crop rotation is said to be part of the Plan and must therefore be considered as an unalterable law of agriculture. Henceforth, the paper warns, violations against this feature of the plan will be considered as "a disruption of the State task" and dealt with accordingly. Unkept pledges, says STVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA (28 October), are worse than no pledges at all. It is disclosed in this connection that a large number of MTS and collective farms of Stavropol krai prefer to keep their promises on paper. Pledges have been made to engage in "genuine competition" (sorevnovanie po-nastoyashchemu) for better tractor work, but the gap between promise and fulfillment remains as wide as ever since "formalism" in socialist competition has not yet been eliminated.

Miscellaneous:

A broadcast from Stalinabad (31 October) adds the helicopter (vertolet) to the long list of Russian inventions. The prototype of that flying machine was reportedly constructed by Lomonosov in 1754, later improved by Zhukovskiy and first designed and produced in its present shape by Academician Guryev in 1912.

A Home Service report of 10 November quotes Prof. Vsekhotyan as announcing the discovery of vitamin P which is contained in tea leaves and is said to be capable of strengthening the small blood vessels. It also helps the body's assimilation of vitamin C. Another new vitamin, B-12, is now "assuming great importance" in Soviet health service since it has been found to play an important part in the blood-producing functions of the human organism.

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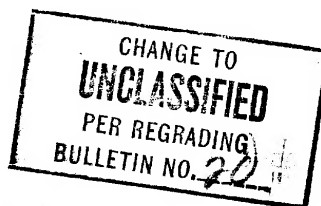
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SUMMARY

The October Revolution Anniversary, coming as it did shortly after the Nineteenth All-Union Party Congress, is somewhat overshadowed by the overriding importance attached to the latter. References to and quotations from Malenkov's speech to the Congress are still more frequent than the allusions to what Pervukhin had to say on similar topics in his Anniversary report. Continued wide publicity also is given to Stalin's BOLSHEVIK article on the economic problems of socialism published shortly before the Congress convened.

Economic failings during the period under review are familiarly minimized while achievements in both industry and agriculture are played up to a higher degree than usual. In industry, for example, it is the chronic shortcomings, such as lagging lumber production and management's reluctance to switch to "progressive norm" methods that get some attention. Most of the criticism of agricultural drawbacks is confined to the technical end of field operations -- the unsatisfactory use and inadequate maintenance of tractors and other farm equipment. By and large, however, regional editorial comment on current economic affairs still reflects the major pronouncements made at the Congress and tends to be sanguine of success while shortcomings are treated as issues of minor local significance.

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